

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

January 22, 1999 LB 81, 103

advancement of LB 81 to E & R Initial. Those in favor say aye; those opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 35 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the advancement of LB 81.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: LB 81 is advanced to E & R Initial. Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: LB 103, Mr. President, by Senator Bromm. (Read title.) Bill was introduced on January 7, referred to Natural Resources, advanced to General File. I have no amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. Chair recognizes Senator Bromm, to open on LB 103.

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. LB 103 is a bill that really doesn't change very much other than the fact that it would allow these irrigation districts, of which we still have a number of them in the state, as opposed to natural resource districts, they're strictly irrigation districts...it would allow them to agree with landowners to include land within the district or to remove land from the district by mutual consent and by petition to the directors of the irrigation district without going through the Department of Water Resources at the state level. The Department of Water Resources actually suggested the bill and brought it to me for introduction. We did have a public hearing in the Natural Resources Committee. There were no opponents and supporting the bill, besides Department of Water Resources, was the Nebraska Farm Bureau. It's just an effort to try to simplify what is really a local decision and that is what's appropriate and what makes sense to include within the boundary lines of a particular irrigation district. These irrigation districts assess themselves costs for the mutual benefit and so it really doesn't affect people outside of the district as to the actions that they take. DWR points out that it would save them some paperwork and some expense at the state level, some employee time, and I think the local irrigation districts feel that it would certainly simplify the paperwork on their end. So, with that, I...there's not a whole lot more I can say about it or explain about it, but I